TWO LETTERS,

One from the

STATES-GENERAL

To His Most Christian

MAJESTY,

The other from

His most Christian Majesty

To the

STATES-GENERAL.

Relating to the present conjuncture of Affairs.

With Allowance. April 6. 1672.

EDINBURGH,
Re-printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the King's most Excellent MAJESTY, 1672.

A LETTER FROM THE STATES GENERAL Of the United Provinces,

To His Moſt Chriſtian MAJESTY.

Great SIR,

HAving reflected on the extraordinary Kindneſſes, which the Kings your Majeſties Predeceſſors, have at all times expreſt for theſe States, we can hardly credit the Reports which are ſpread abroad, That they are become the objects of thoſe powerful Preparations of War, now made by you in your Kingdom: And yet the Intelligence we receive from all parts, and the diſcourſes, which as we are inform-

ed, your Miniſters have delivered in the Courts of thoſe Kings and Princes where they are Reſident, inſinuating, that they are made only againſt us: We have been deſirous with the greateſt ſcrutiny in the world to examine, Whether in our Actions and Conduct, there may have been any thing which might induce your Majeſty to turn that Friendſhip, wherewith you have hitherto honoured us, into averſion. And having not found any thing therein, whereof we might be conſcious to our ſelves, nor any thing intimated to us by your Majeſty, we could not be perſwaded, that the Juſtice which regulates the Actions of your Government, could permit you to imploy your Arms againſt your moſt Ancient and moſt Faithful Allies, without any previous communication of the diſguſts, whereof you might deſire the Redreſs. And indeed, ſo far was it from our intention to give your Majeſty occaſion of any, or being any way whatſoever deficient in the obſervance of the Treaty at *Paris*, in the year, 1662. that we think we have moſt punctually and moſt religiouſly obſerved it. Nay, we ſhall make it our buſineſs immediately to redreſs the diſobſervances and contraventions, which might any wayes happen through Inadvertency. True it is, may it pleaſe your Majeſty, that fore ſome time ſince, there has been ſome diſagreement about *Navigation* and *Commerce*; but it has been extremely to our regret, who have done all that could be lawfully deſired of us, to prevent and take off the difficulties which have occaſioned any trouble or inconvenience in both thoſe concerns; As we ſhall yet be ready to do, not only in that reſpect, but alſo in whatever may aſſure your Majeſty of the perfect Inclination we have, to render you the Honour and Compliance which is as much due to your Perſon, as to the Eminency of your

Dignity,

Dignity, to give you all the ſatisfaction, which you may in reaſon pretend to, from your beſt and moſt affectionate Allies, to re-eſtabliſh *Commerce* and *Navigation* in the ſame poſture it was in at the time of the laſt Treaty, and to promote your intereſts with the greateſt affection we could, ſo as not to prejudice the obligation we have to our other Allies. Moreover, Sir, we do not conceive our ſelves oblig'd to juſtifie the Military preparations we make by Sea and Land, conſidering the Intelligence we daily receive; but would gladly have your Majeſty aſſured, that we do it not with a deſign to injure any, but by an inevitable neceſſity, and the Indiſpenſable obligation which lies upon us, to protect our State and Subjects: And that we ſhould be glad to lay down our Arms, as ſoon as it ſhall pleaſe you to deliver us out of the diſquiet, into which we are put by the preparations which ſeem to approach us on all ſides, and to aſſure us, that we have no cauſe to fear yours. We order the Sieur *de Groot*, our Ambaſſador for that purpoſe, to deſire a particular Audience of your Majeſty, and to entertain you more at large on this Subject, and to add hereto whatever may contribute to your aſſurance of the ſincerity of our Intentions. We ſhall not therefore enlarge this Letter any further, ſave only to pray God, *&c.*

From the Hague, December *the* 10, 1671.

THE

THE ANSWER Of His Moſt Chriſtian MAJESTY To the Precedent LETTER FROM THE STATES GENERAL.

Moſt Dear, Great Friends, Allies, and Confederates,

WE have given Auidence to the Sieur *de Groot*, your Extraordinary Ambaſſador now with us, upon what he hath repreſented to us upon your behalf; and have received from him the Letter of the 10th. of *December* laſt, which you had ordered him to deliver us. We are very much pleaſed to find therein the acknowledgement you make, of having received, upon ſeveral occaſions, ſome expreſſions of the kindneſſes of the Kings our Predeceſſors: But we could have wiſhed, that you had not forgotten what

what hath paſſed ſince our coming to the Crown. The remembrance you ſhould have retained of that, would have given you occaſion, without any ſcruple, to have judged leſs favourably then you do, of your demeanour towards us. You would have remembred, that you have not obſerved the Fidelity due to our ancient Alliance; and that we have not been wanting to give you very advantageous Aſſiſtances when you ſtood in need of them, for the maintenance and ſupport of your State. Nay poſſibly the Innovations you have made in the buſineſs of Commerce, ſince the Year 1662. would have appeared to you much leſs innocent then you repreſent them; as to which we are willing to refer our ſelf, to the ſentiment of thoſe, who are therein leſs concerned then we are. If it be true, as you acknowledge, That Juſtice is the Rule of our Actions, and that you are fully ſatisfied with the examination you have made of your own, you have no occaſion to be diſquieted at our Military Preparations. 'Tis true, at our return from the laſt Expedition we made into *Flanders*, that the Infantry guarding our places in thoſe Parts, might be imployed about the Fortifications there, we augmented our Forces, to ſecure our Subjects from the Oppreſſion wherewith they were threatned, as well by the extraordinary Levies of Foot and Horſe which you had raiſed, and the Fleet you had at Sea before our Coaſts; as by the earneſt ſolicitations which your Miniſters made in the Courts of moſt Princes, to induce them into Engagements againſt our Crown. In which procedure, we have complyed with the Laws of Prudence, and the protection we owe our People. Nay, we ſhall tell you, that we ſhall augment our Preparations both by Sea and Land; and when they ſhall be in the poſture we have deſigned them, we

ſhall

ſhall make ſuch uſe of them, as we ſhall conceive ſuitable to our Dignity, whereof we are not obliged to give any man an accompt; promiſing our ſelf, that God will bleſs with ſucceſs, the juſt Reſolutions we ſhall take, and that they will be approved by all the Potentates who ſhall not ſuffer themſelves to be prepoſſeſſed by the ſiniſter Impreſſions, which ſome have made it their buſineſs a long time to infuſe into them againſt us.

This is the Anſwer we thought fit to make to your Letter, though it was not ſo much written particularly to us, as to excite againſt our Intereſts, thoſe Princes, in whoſe Courts it had been divulged, before we could receive it.

Recommending you therefore, Moſt Dear, Great Friends, Allies, and Confederates, to Gods protection, *&c.*

From St. Germain en Laye,
Jan. 6. 1672.

F I N I S.